

C. Remarks

The claims are 16-19, with claims 16 and 19 being the sole independent claim. Claim 16 has been amended to better define the present invention. Support for this amendment may be found, inter alia, in the original specification at pages 18 and 19. New claims 18 and 19 have been added. Support for claim 18 may be found, for example, at page 25, lines 5-8. Support for claim 19 may be found throughout the specification and the claims. No new matter has been added. Consideration of the claims now presented for examination is expressly requested.

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 4,834,509 (Gunjama); 5,437,811 (Doane); and 5,858,268 (Niiyama). The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Gunjama discloses a liquid crystal device comprising a polymeric compound and a liquid crystal compound in a state of phase separation. However, the polymeric compounds in this document are not as presently claimed.

Specifically, Gunjama teaches compounds represented by general formula I at column 6, lines 13-16: $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-\text{X}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$. These compounds have an acryl group at both the right and left ends, which are bonded through the $-\text{O}-\text{X}-$ group. In comparing formula I in Gunjama and the compound as presently claimed, the following may be observed with respect to the corresponding structural elements:

Formula (2)	Formula I in Gunjama
A'	left acryl group
B	single bond
D	O
(E-G) _e -(J) _j	X
K	single bond
L	right acryl group

Alternatively:

Formula (2)	Formula I in Gunjama
A'	right acryl group
B	single bond
D	single bond
(E-G) _e -(J) _j	X
K	-OC(O)-
L	-CH=CH ₂

In either case above, the moiety in formula I of Gunjama corresponding to L in the present formula (2) is not an alkyl group or a polyoxyalkylene group having a substituted OH or COOH at an end or a side chain. Furthermore, X in formula I of Gunjama, that is the moiety bridging two aromatic rings, is taught to be -C(CH₃)₂-, -SO₂- and -COOROROOC-. However, none of the moieties taught correspond to G as presently claimed. Therefore, clearly, the presently claimed invention is patentable over Gunjama.

Doane is directed to a liquid crystalline light modulation cell. Doane teaches 4,4'-bisacryloyl biphenyl. This compound, however, has a structure similar to that

of formula I in Gunjama, which is discussed in detail above. However, it does not contain a moiety corresponding D in present formula (2), while the moiety corresponding to G is a single bond. Accordingly, Doane also fails to disclose or suggest the compound of formula (2) as presently claimed.

Niiyama is directed to a liquid crystal optical element. Niiyama discloses a general formula (1): $CXY=CZ-CO-O-R-OH$. Each of X, Y and Z is $-H$ or $-CH_3$. While R may contain a cyclic hydrocarbon, Applicants submit that Niiyama fails to teach a structure containing two cyclic hydrocarbons. Accordingly, since the structure in formula (2) as presently claimed requires at least two rings, Niiyama cannot affect the patentability of the presently claimed invention.

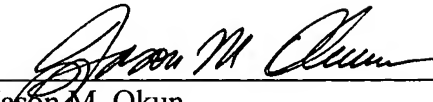
In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, whether considered separately or in any proper combination, do not disclose or suggest the elements presently claimed. Wherefore, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that the present case be passed to issue.

Applicants believe that all issues have been resolved in view of the arguments presented above. However, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney by telephone after reviewing this Amendment to schedule an interview to address the Examiner's concerns, if any are remaining.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our

address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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